



Catherine Connors



Andrew Horton



Ellen Gorman



Andrew Mead



Joseph Jabar



Thomas Humphrey

Justice

Confidence Score

Indeterminate

Mild Democrat

Mild Democrat

Mild Democrat

Strong Democrat

Indeterminate

Opinion Partners

Dissenting Minority

Determining Majority

Lone Dissenter



- ▶ Number of justices: **7 (vacancies occurred mid-2020)**
- ▶ Number of cases: **143**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **92.3% (132)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Andrew Mead (21)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **36**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **3**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Catherine Connors (1), Justice Andrew Horton (1), and Justice Donald Alexander (1)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **9**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Joseph Jabar (5)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners

In 2020, two cases before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court were decided 4-2. In one of those cases Justices Jabar and Mead allied in dissent, and in one of those cases Justice Jabar and Substitute Justice Alexander allied in dissent. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Jabar recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score and Justice Mead recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score.

Dissenting minority

In 2020, three justices dissented in one case before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Justices Connors, Horton, and Jabar allied in dissent in that case. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Connors recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score, Justice Horton recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score, and Justice Jabar recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score.

Determining majority

In the one case in which three justices dissented, the three justices in the majority were Justices Gorman, Humphrey, and Mead. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Gorman and Mead recorded Mild Democratic Confidence Scores and Justice Humphrey recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score.

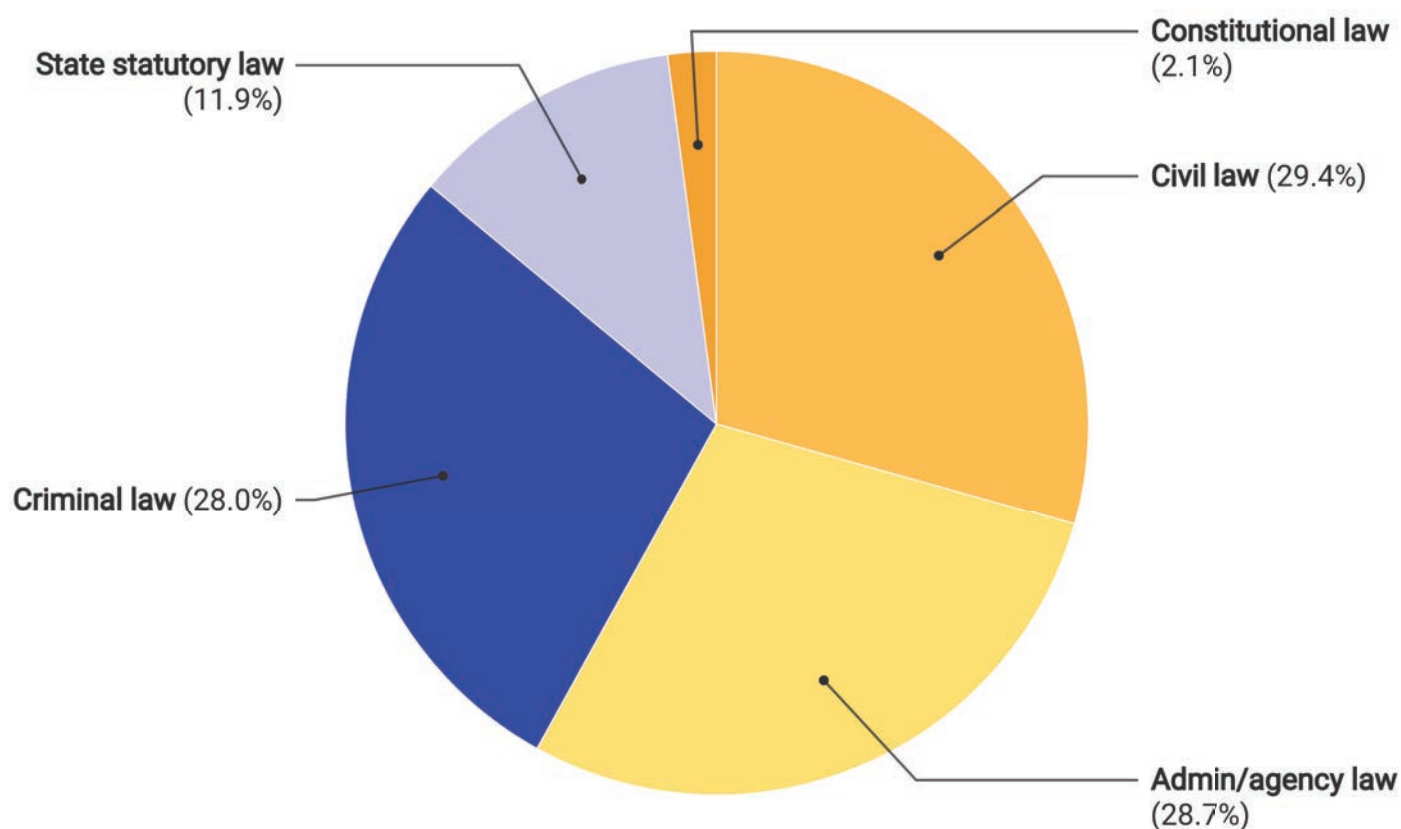
Lone dissenter

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in seven cases decided by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Justice Jabar was a lone dissenter in six of those cases. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Jabar recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The court has appellate jurisdiction of all cases. Additionally, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court is one of the few state supreme courts that is authorized to issue advisory opinions. These advisory opinions are issued at the request of either the Executive Branch or the Legislative Branch.

Case types decided by Maine Supreme Judicial Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in 2020 was civil cases. Of the 143 cases it heard, 42 were civil cases, or 29.4 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were administrative law cases. An administrative law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court heard 41 admin/agency cases in 2020, or 28.7 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were criminal cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court heard 40 criminal cases in 2020, or 28.0 percent of its total caseload for the year.